Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Currently amended) In a service-oriented architecture in which a client invokes a ~~Web~~ service from a Web service provider using a dynamically selected transport binding, a method of invoking said Web service comprising the steps of:

   ~~negotiating~~ selecting a ~~service~~ transport binding for a Web service invocation from said Web service provider in a ~~negotiation~~ selection process using a first transport binding; and

   ~~handling~~ conducting subsequent communications between said client and said Web service provider relating to said Web service invocation using the ~~service~~ transport binding ~~negotiated~~ selected in said ~~negotiation~~ selection process using said first transport binding.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said client is on a client side of a communication path, said steps being performed on said client side of said communication path.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which said Web service provider is on a server side of a communication path, said steps being performed on said server side of said communication path.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which said client is on a client side of a communication path and said Web service provider is on a server side of said communication path, ~~said service~~ the selected transport binding being negotiated directly between said client side and said server side of said communication path.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which ~~in which~~ said client is on a client side of a communication path and said Web service provider is on a server side of said communication path, said steps ~~are~~ being performed on said client side and said server side of said communication path.

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which said Web service invocation passes through one or more intermediary nodes along a communication path between said client and

said server as end nodes, said method steps being performed by one of said intermediary nodes with an adjacent node along said communication path between said client and said server.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which said Web service invocation passes through one or more intermediary nodes along a communication path between said client and said server as end nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

having each pair of adjacent nodes along said communication path between said client and server negotiate a ~~service~~ transport binding for a portion of said Web service invocation passing between said nodes in a negotiation process between said nodes; and

having each pair of adjacent nodes ~~handle~~ conduct subsequent communications relating to the portion of said Web service invocation passing between said nodes using the ~~service~~ transport binding negotiated in said negotiation process between said nodes.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in said client is located on a client side of a communication path and said Web service is located on a server side of said communication path, said ~~negotiating~~ selecting step comprising the step of:

determining whether said server side is capable of negotiating a ~~service~~ transport binding;

if said server side is determined to be capable of negotiating a ~~service~~ transport binding, negotiating a ~~service~~ transport binding with said server side; and

otherwise, selecting a ~~service~~ transport binding on the basis on information available on the client side of said communication path without negotiating with said server side.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 in which ~~said service~~ the selected transport binding is selected on the basis of diagnostic information available on the client side of said communication path.

10.   (Currently amended) In a service-oriented architecture in which a client invokes a Web service from a Web service provider using a dynamically selected transport binding, apparatus for invoking said Web service comprising:

means for ~~negotiating~~ selecting a ~~service~~ transport binding for a Web service invocation from said Web service provider in a ~~negotiation~~ selection process using a first transport binding; and

means for ~~handling~~ conducting subsequent communications between said client and said Web service provider relating to said Web service invocation using the ~~service~~ transport binding ~~negotiated~~ selected in said ~~negotiation~~ selection process using said first transport binding.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10 in which said client is on a client side of a communication path, said ~~negotiating~~ selecting means and said ~~handling~~ conducting means being located on said client side of said communications path.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10 in which said Web service provider is on a server side of a communication path, said ~~negotiating~~ selecting means and said ~~handling~~ conducting means being located on said server side of said communication path.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10 in which said client is on a client side of a communication path and said Web service provider is on a server side of said communication path, ~~said service~~ the selected transport binding being negotiated directly between said client side and said server side of said communication path.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10 in which ~~in which~~ said client is on a client side of a communication path and said Web service provider is on a server side of said communication path, said ~~negotiating~~ selecting means and said ~~handling~~ conducting means being located on said client side and said server side of said communication path.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10 in which said Web service invocation passes through one or more intermediary nodes along a communication path between said client and said server as end nodes, said ~~negotiating~~ selecting means and said ~~handling~~ conducting means being associated with one of said intermediary nodes along said communication path between said client and server.

16.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10 in which said Web service invocation passes through one or more intermediary nodes along a communication path between said client and said server as end nodes, said Web service invocation potentially using a different transport binding between each pair of adjacent nodes between said client and server, said apparatus comprising:

means at each pair of adjacent nodes along said communication path between said client and server for ~~negotiating~~ selecting a ~~service~~ transport binding for a portion of said Web service invocation passing between said nodes in a ~~negotiation~~ selection process between said nodes; and

means at each pair of adjacent nodes for ~~handling~~ conducting subsequent communications relating to the portion of said service invocation passing between said nodes using the ~~service~~ transport binding negotiated in said negotiation process between said nodes.

17.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16 in which ~~said service~~ the selected transport binding is selected on the basis of diagnostic information available on the client side of said communication path.

18.   (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for invoking a Web service in a service-oriented architecture in which a client invokes said Web service from a Web service provider using a selected transport binding, said method steps comprising:

~~negotiating~~ selecting a ~~service~~ transport binding for a Web service invocation from said Web service provider in a ~~negotiation~~ selection process using a first transport binding; and

~~handling~~ conducting subsequent communications between said client and said Web service provider relating to said Web service invocation using the ~~service~~ transport binding ~~negotiated~~ selected in said ~~negotiation~~ selection process using said first transport binding.

19.   (Currently amended) The program storage device of claim 18 in said client is located on a client side of a communication path and said Web service is located on a server side of said communication path, said ~~negotiating~~ selecting step comprising the step of:

determining whether said server side is capable of negotiating a ~~service~~ transport binding;

if said server side is determined to be capable of negotiating a ~~service~~ transport binding, negotiating a ~~service~~ transport binding with said server side; and

otherwise, selecting a ~~service~~ transport binding on the basis on information available on the client side of said communication path without negotiating with said server side.

20.   (Currently amended) The program storage device of claim 19 in which ~~said service~~ the selected transport binding is selected on the basis of diagnostic information available on the client side of said communication path.